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Today's News...This Morning

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Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Athens, Tennessee

News from the Legislature

◆ "SLOW POKE" BILL PASSES HOUSE

The so-called "Slow Poke" bill has won speedy passage in the Tennessee House of Representatives. The bill creates a \$50 fine for driving slow in the fast lane on three-lane highways. The bill would require cars to stay out of the left lane except to pass other vehicles. The Senate Transportation Committee takes up the bill next week.

◆ TOUGHER TEXTING PENALTIES

The Senate has passed a bill that imposes tougher penalties on school bus drivers who text while driving. It would require a minimum sentence of 30 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine, along with a permanent ban on driving a school bus.

◆ CHILDREN MUST USE CAR SEATS LONGER

Both the Senate and the House have passed a bill that would require children to use car seats for a longer period of time. Toddlers would have to ride in rear-facing car seats for an additional year, until age 2. Children would have to ride in forward-facing car seats until age 5, and children would have to ride in booster seats until they turn 12 or reach a height of 4-feet-9.

◆ BILL GRANTS IMMUNITY TO GUARDSMEN

The state Senate has passed a bill giving immunity to Tennessee National Guard members with state handgun-carry permits who were authorized last year to bring their firearms into state military facilities as a result of the terrorist shootings in Chattanooga. The bill would give them civil immunity and legal representation.

NATIONAL-WORLD NEWS

◆ The U.N. envoy for Syria will soon begin holding "substantive" peace talks with both Syrian government officials and opposition representatives. Preparations for the discussions get underway this week in Geneva.

◆ A Vanderbilt University student was killed in a stabbing attack in Israel yesterday while on a trip there through the school. The attack occurred in Jaffa, a city south of Tel Aviv, and Israeli police say the attack was carried out by a Palestinian from the West Bank.

◆ Glen Campbell is now in the final stages of Alzheimer's, almost five years after his initial diagnosis. Sources close to the country icon say that he has been in Stage Seven of the degenerative brain disease for some time now and is unable to communicate.

◆ COMMUNITY NEWS YOU CAN USE:

✓ Southeast Tennessee Human Resources Agency (SETHRA) will be distributing commodities for McMinn County this Thursday, March 10th, at the National Guard Armory from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

✓ Christ's Legacy Academy will have an Open House this Thursday, March 10th, from 4 to 7 p.m. The Academy is located at 964 County Road 180, Athens. The public is invited to attend.

✓ The Athens Housing Authority will host a joint meeting with the Athens City Council this Thursday at 12 noon. The meeting will be held at the main Athens Housing Authority office located at 716 Clark Street.

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WAS**
Old-time Radio Shows
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**Father Knows Best &
Baby Snooks**

WEATHER

Wednesday - Mostly sunny.

Highs in the mid 70's.

Wed. night - Mostly cloudy.

Lows in the mid to upper 50's.

Thursday - Partly sunny. Highs in the mid 70's.

More Weather & Zoom Radar at: www.wyxi.com

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Morning Fax[®]

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Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Athens, Tennessee

Saluting "Super Heroes"

The City of Cocoa, Florida, has come up with a practical way to show appreciation to their "Super Heroes." Three parking spaces in front of the Cocoa City Hall are reserved for the exclusive use of "Super Heroes." Bob Ketchersid of The Morning Fax staff took this photograph of one of the signs. Maybe the idea will spread to cities in the Athens area.



Obituaries

- **Ross Shelton**, age 80, of Athens, died Tuesday at Starr Regional Medical Center. Funeral services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Ziegler Funeral Home with visitation from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Randy Ensminger**, age 64, of Cleveland, (and formerly of Athens) died Monday in a Chattanooga hospital. He was an employee of the City of Cleveland. He grew up in Athens and graduated from McMinn County High School in 1970. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Ralph Buckner Funeral Home in Cleveland, with visitation at the funeral home from 5 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Betty Ann Collins**, age 77, of Athens, died Monday. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. Thursday at Boyd Memorial First Church of God, with visitation at the church on Wednesday from 6 to 8 p.m. Companion Funeral Service of Cleveland is in charge of arrangements.
- **Mike McGinnis**, age 77, of Athens, died Monday at his home. He had been a teacher at Athens Junior High School, retiring after 37 years. He was active in the Boy Scouts. There will be no visitation or funeral. Burial will be in Indiana at a later date. Serenity Funeral Home of Etowah is in charge of local arrangements.
- **James "Spider" Edward Webb**, age 62, of Athens, died Monday at Starr Regional Medical Center. Funeral services will be held this Friday at 8 p.m. at Bordwine Funeral Home, with visitation from 6 to 8 p.m.

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TODAY IN HISTORY - MARCH 9TH

- 1451** - Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci was born. He claimed to have discovered the America's in 1497. A German mapmaker believed Vespucci's claim and suggested that the land be named "America."
- 1862** - The famous Civil War naval battle between the Merrimack and the Monitor took place off Hampton Roads, Virginia. The two "ironclads" battled for about four hours, then retreated. Neither ship won the battle.
- 1933** - Singer Lloyd Price was born. His biggest hits were "Personality" and "Stagger Lee."
- 1934** - Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, was born.
- 1936** - Country singer Mickey Gilley was born. His hit records include "Room Full of Roses" and "That's All That Matters."
- 1943** - American chess champion Bobby Fischer was born.
- 1964** - The first Ford Mustang, a Wimbledon White convertible, rolled off the production line in Dearborn, Mich. Instead of being kept by Ford Motor Co., the car was mistakenly sold to Canadian airline pilot Stanley Tucker, who later agreed to trade it back to Ford in exchange for the one-millionth Mustang.